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May 3, 1985

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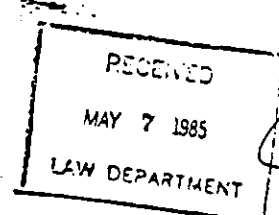
Re: Dr. Richard J. Hickey

Gentlemen:

Drs. Richard J. Hickey and Richard C. Clelland have requested a one-year renewal of their research project in which they are examining various statistical and biological relationships. They have requested \$55,000 in funding (an increase of \$5,000 over 1984-85) and we recommend that the project be approved as a CTR Special Project.

For the last several years, Dr. Hickey and his colleagues have focused their attention on the interpretation and analysis of statistical associations in epidemiologic studies. Dr. Hickey advocates strongly the position that statistical associations can never establish a cause and effect relationship. In this regard, Dr. Hickey has been critical of researchers that attempt to use statistical correlations to reach conclusions about the causes of chronic disease. Dr. Hickey's views have been reflected in various publications in medical and scientific journals.

An alternate hypothesis proposed by Dr. Hickey and his colleagues to explain the statistical relationship between smoking and health is the "genotype" or genetic hypothesis first suggested by Dr. R. A. Fisher. Dr. Hickey has expanded on Fisher's work by



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examining possible biological mechanisms that may help explain the genetic hypothesis. Dr. Hickey also has examined the work of Dr. Philip Burch in great depth to assess its importance in assessing the validity of the smoking-causality hypothesis.

Dr. Hickey's group plans to remain active in analyzing published literature in the smoking and health area and submitting their contributions to appropriate journals. The most recent article from the Hickey group relates, in part, to the health risks associated with exposure to radiation in an upcoming edition of Health Physics.

The Hickey proposal has been discussed with Dr. Sommers and he favors its renewal for one year. We also recommend approval and ask for your earliest possible response.

Sincerely,

*Patrick M. Sirridge*  
Patrick M. Sirridge *sh*

PMS:sh

cc: Ms. Janet C. Brown  
Mr. Edwin J. Jacob

Mr. Francis K. Decker, Jr.

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